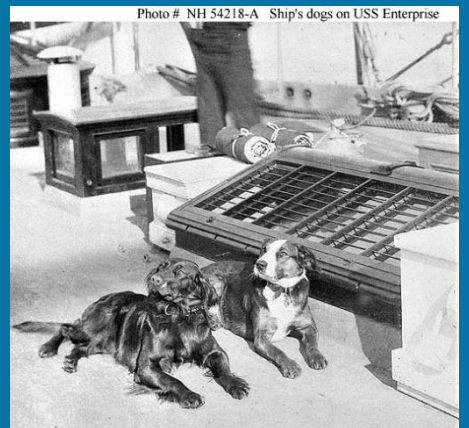
NHB/NMRTC Bremerton Recognizes National Dog Week for 2025

Caring Canine Connection



Gone To the Dogs at Naval Hospital Bremerton

By Douglas H Stutz, NHB/NMRTC Bremerton public affairs officer -- Naval Hospital Bremerton staff don't really go to the dogs during National Dog Week.

Many were already there.

Along with the personal connection for with canines for many staff, the U.S. Navy has long had an professional affinity for dogs.

Military working dogs have long been part of America's operational readiness, although they didn't have an official role until 1942 during World War II. Since then, they've been with soldiers, Sailors, airmen and Marines up through Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom until present day. There are approximately 1,600 military working dogs currently serving in a variety of mission essential land, sea, air roles, including security, search and rescue and part of foot – and paw – patrols

Navy Medicine Readiness Training Unit Bangor personnel augmented their Tactical Combat Casualty Care proficiency earlier this year in providing battlefield trauma care to military working dogs. The training, a collaborative effort with Army Veterinary Corps the Veterinary Treatment Facility located on Naval Base Kitsap Bangor was designed to improve the ability of non-veterinary medical providers like Navy corpsmen to render correct and timely treatment for military working dogs having a medical emergency in an operational environment.

Dogs have also been haze-gray underway and not just as official mascots. Most notable has been Capt. Demo, a golden retriever/lab mix on USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) during their extended nine-month deployment to the volatile waters of the Middle East, providing comfort, companionship and curative as only a canine can.

The following pages are dedicated to those staff more than willing to share their connection with their fur family. For the fourth year in a row, over 30 dog-owners responded to a request to provide an image of their canine companion(s) for the last week in September. The pictures compiled here into the visual digital display, range from lovable rescues to runts of the litter and many breeds in between.

Dog gone it, indeed.

- *This is Charles. He is 6 or 7 years old, a rescue from San Antonio Texas who came to the family of Michelle VanOverbeke, Family Medicine Clinic Women's Health Nurse and OB Referral Navigator, about 5 years ago. "We had his DNA done and he is a lot of things but primarily Great Pyrenees and Siberian Husky. He came to us after being fostered by a trainer who taught him basic obedience and some fun tricks like riding a skateboard. He loves to go for hikes and sniff absolutely everything along the way. He will do anything for food and he drools like a Saint Bernard. Since our kids are grown he is spoiled and gets all the attention.*

- *Meet Ralph! “I believe he is 4 years old, and an Aussie/Poodle mix. I like to say he is “fluffy & kind” when asked what he is. My family adopted him from a shelter 3 years ago,” shared Lt. j.g. Wanda Burdick, Family Medicine Clinic.*

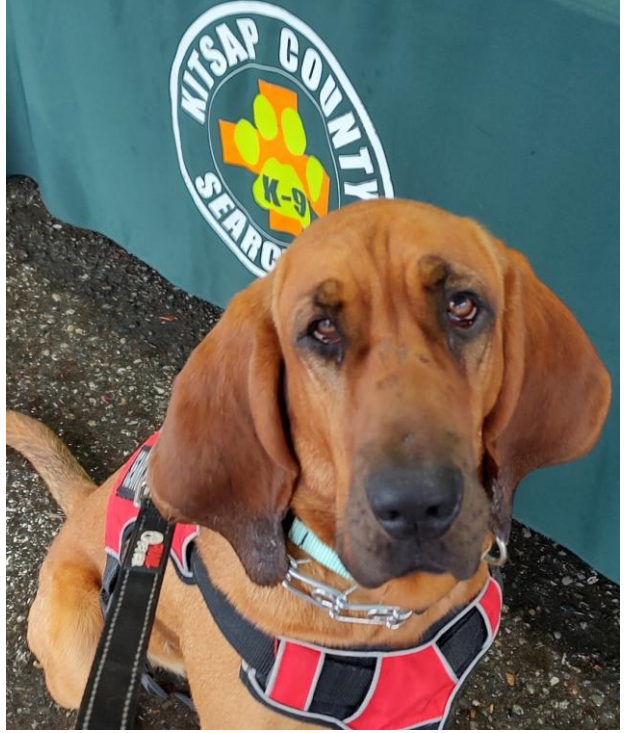
- *This is Quincy, 10 yrs old, Bassett Hound/Springer rescued at the age of 3 and Sophie, 6 yrs old, Lab/Pit, rescued at the age of 4.*

- *“These two have sooooo much love and have been inseperable since the day I brought Sophie home. Nights at my house involve wrestling and chasing each other till one of them lays down, then they are side by side,” shared Charmel Gilbert Medical Records Tech, NMRTC PSNS detachment.*

Meet Frank Gilmore, Shih Tzu, who for all of his entire 14 years has been with Lt. Rowena Gilmore

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Kadia Thompson has 8-month old Benjamin – aka Benji – who she has had since birth. Benji enjoys going on hikes and basking in the sun…

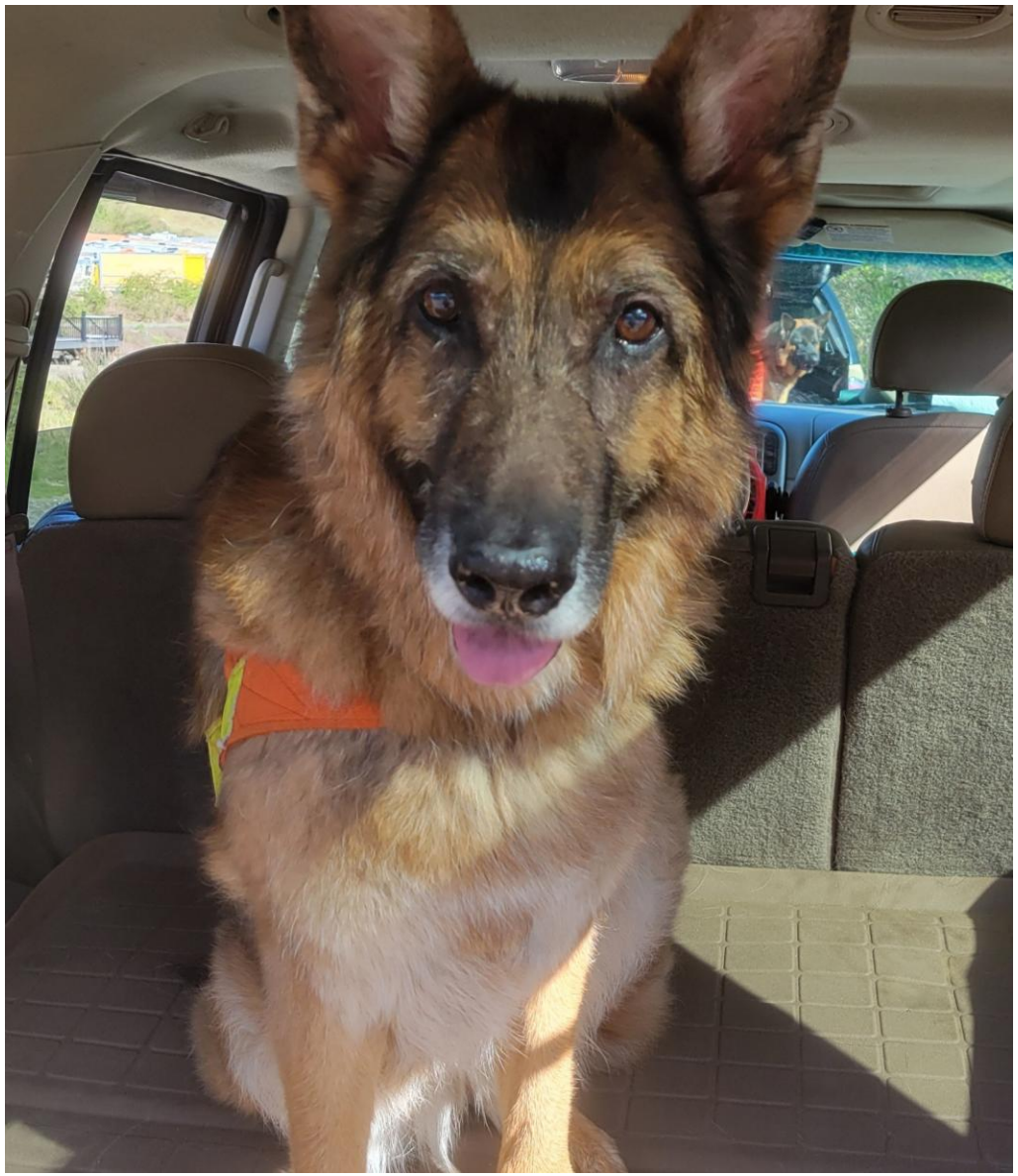
▪ *In Tim Stewart's household, they have "three wonderful canine buddies. This is Lyla Bear Stewart (bottom right). She is now 1 years old and Golden Retriever/German Sheppard. She thinks she is smarter than any human. When asked politely to sit or stay, she says, "for what? I'm a puppy I play! The small little grey creature is a eating machine. She is NeNe, a six year old Miniature Schnauzer born in Japan. The 9 week old Airedale Terrier puppy – Macy Mae - has now grown to 100lbs at 4 years old and she is the dominant being in the household. She keeps everyone in line including the human members. She is a guard dog all the time, and the delivery man that could not read the sign knows first hand how big her teeth are!"*



· *Blood hounds Ellie Mae, a certified Search and Rescue dog since 2018 and [much] younger MJ of Amy Salzsieder are valued member of Kitsap County K9 Search and Rescue and National Search Dogs Alliance. Kelicie, age 8, is their resident bird dog.*

MEET JAC THE BLUE MERLE COAT CARDIGAN CORGI OF RAYMOND HICKS.

- *Amylisa and Aaron Myer's have had Sitka "Gunnar," a 8-yr old Boykin Spaniel since he was just six weeks old. "He's an amazing duck hunting retriever, and he typically outruns his Labrador cousin in the duck blind," said Amylisa, adding that he comes from a line of great hunters with his great, great, grandfather the first Boykin to ever earn the title of Grand Hunting Retriever Champion (there are only four Boykins to have earned this title to date). [Serious Trivia, notes Amylisa: The Boykin Spaniel is the state dog of South Carolina.*

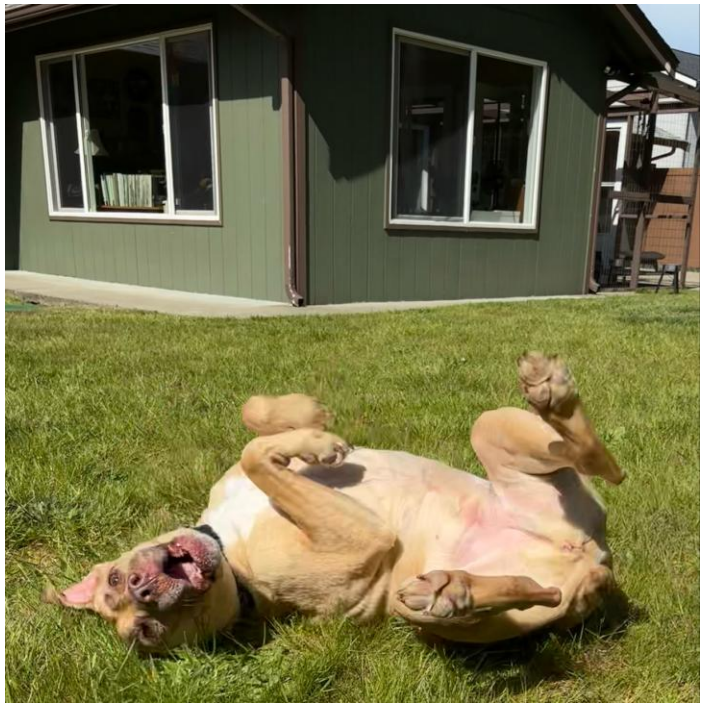


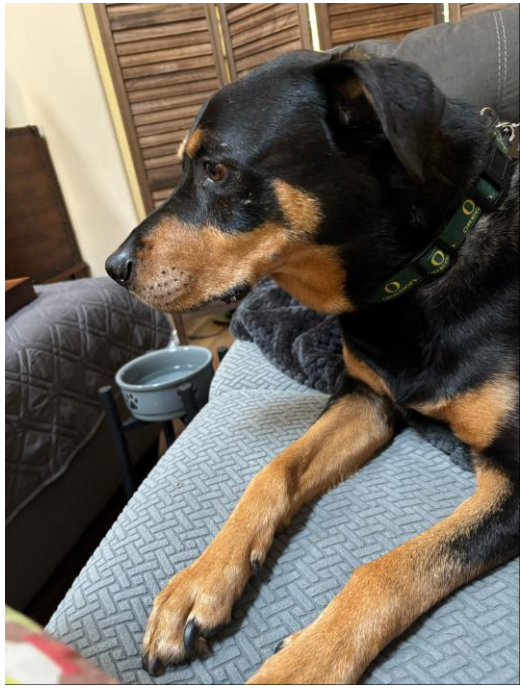
- *Meet Harley Lerma , female German Shepherd, 12½ years old. And a retired Search and Rescue K9, Kitsap County Search Dogs (9 years as NSDA certified Trailing K9) Now enjoying retirement as property patroller and squirrel and rabbit barker…*

- *The furry family members Kenneth Baer, NHB Medical Records. Zeus is a 7-year old, 75 lb white/tan male English Bulldog. He was rescued from Boise Bulldog Rescue via Orange County, Calif. Lilo is a 4.5 year old, 25 lb white/tan female French Bulldog rescued from Bulldog Haven NW via Olympia, Wash. Sookie is a 3-year old, 45 lb tri-color female English Bulldog rescued from Tri-Cities, Wash.*

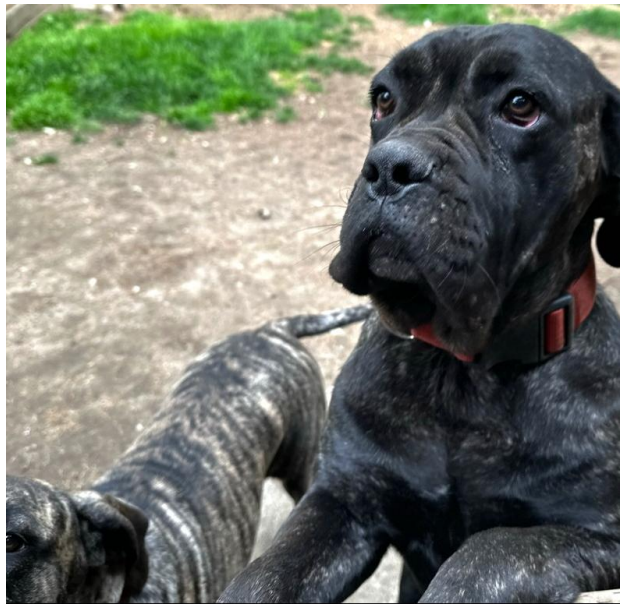
- *PAO's Darla Dog is a pitty/boxer mix, adopted from Camano Animal Shelter over the 2021 holiday season. She has found her niche and forever home.*

Meanwhile…Super Fred (right) is a Doberman/shep mix alpha male and shameless mamma's boy…





- ***Roger Smith's home is [also] the residence of Harper, a doodle and two Cane Corso, Sunny the blonde brindle and Lucy with the coal coat.***



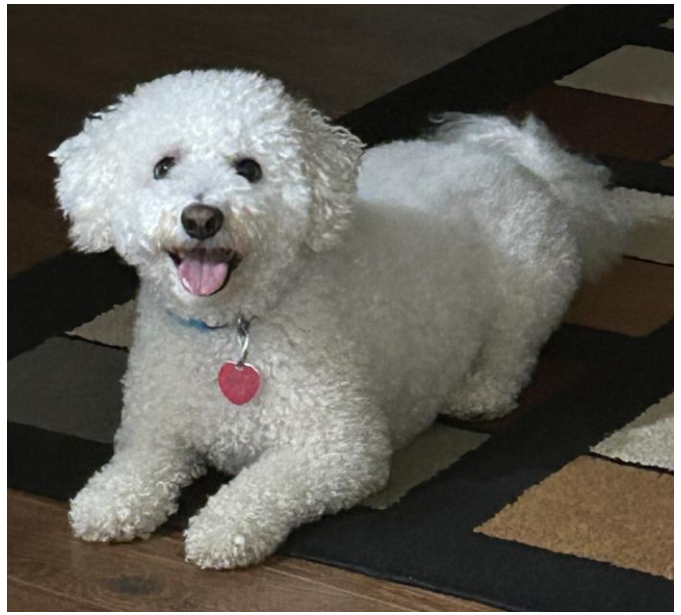
- ***Meet Winston!***

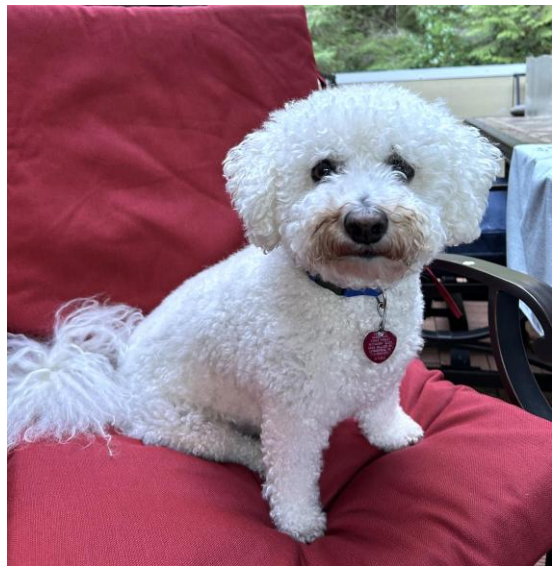
Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Cade Crenshaw's Winston is a three-year-old Corgi with a big personality packed into short legs. When he's not out hiking or strolling through the park, you can usually find him soaking up the sun on the floor like he owns the place. Equal parts goofy and regal, Winston has mastered the art of side-eye stares, dramatic ear poses, and well-timed tongue flicks. He's the kind of pup who can make a room brighter just by trotting in—and he knows it!

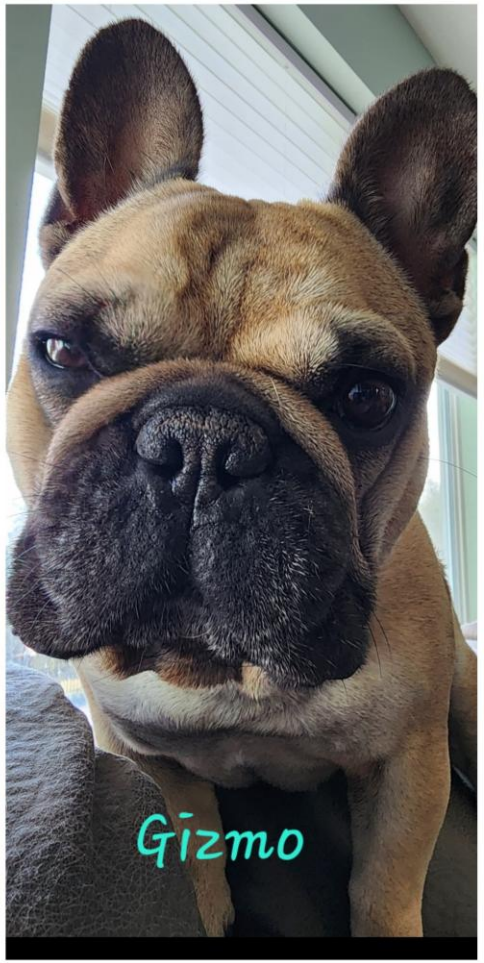
This is Chief Murphy Chubbs, aka Chubbs/CMC. He is a five year old English Bulldog of Jonathan F. Duclayan, NMRTC Bremerton PSNS Detachment lead occupational health technician.

This is Oscar, a 7 year old Bichon Fris

“He loves walks, playing with squeaky toys and looking out the window to police the street,” exclaimed Mary Anne Kiel, MD, NHB pediatrician.

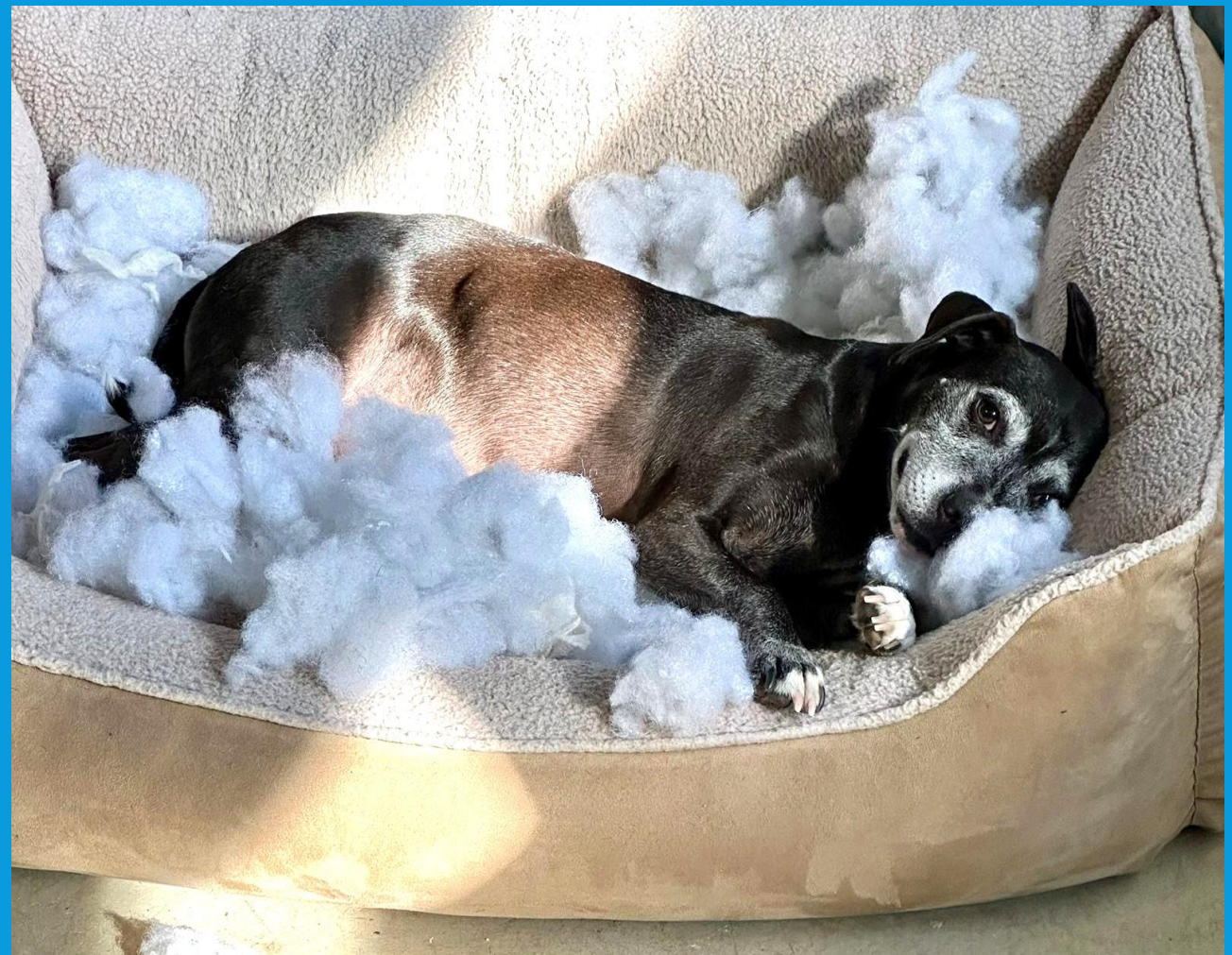






The fur family of Jose J. Garcia Perez (Dave), BMC (SW/AW) Retired.

Meet Lt. Erica Fallon, physical therapist, pooch Damon, 9-year old Blsck Lab/Staffordshire terrier mix.



A member of Capt. Heather Kirk household: Bagel (named by the 13-year-old primary human), a 4 years old Lab/German Shepard mix" according to Kitsap Humane Society, who has been with the Kirk Family since August 2024. "He loves singing the songs of his people, long hikes with his pack, car rides, talking back to his humans, and dislikes energetic dogs, his humans going to work/school, the vacuum cleaner and baths," related Kirk.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Challis Miles of Radiology has Amadeus, aka 'Bubba,' a 6-year old Australian Shephard/Husky mix. "I've had him since he was 7 weeks. Interesting fact is he is a typical Australian Shepherd with one blue eye and one brown eye.

- ***Meet Phineas, a 2-year old Portuguese Water Dog which Cmdr. Jared M Patton, chief medical officer, has had since a puppy. “This is a before and after of him getting totally wrecked by the groomer,” said Patton.***

- ***Kimberly Ortiz, Family Medicine certified medical assistant, hs Napoleon, a 6-year Golden Retriever who she has had as a puppy. “He is my very loyal service animal and enjoys coming with me on all my trips/adventures. He loves people, attention, and making new friends,” shared Ortiz.***

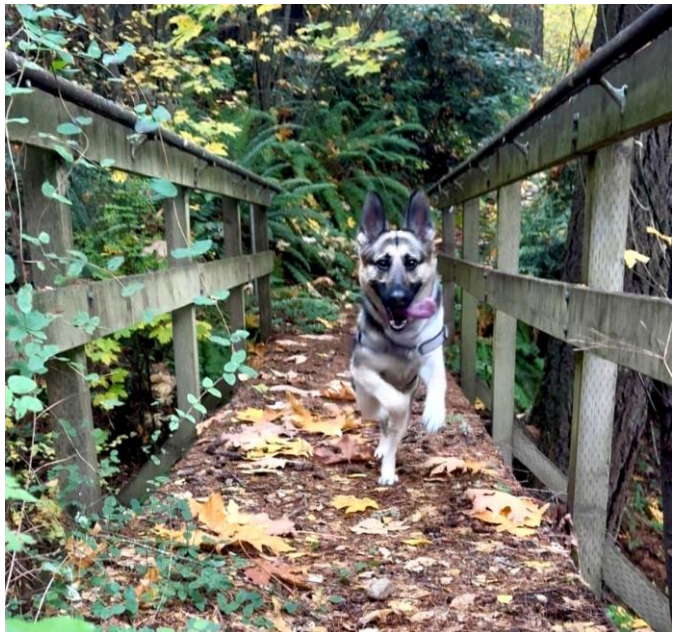
- ***Meet the two Toy Poodles of Jeff Worrell, DMLSS SA. Ebone (top) is two-years old and Chokkie is the grand dame at six-years old.***

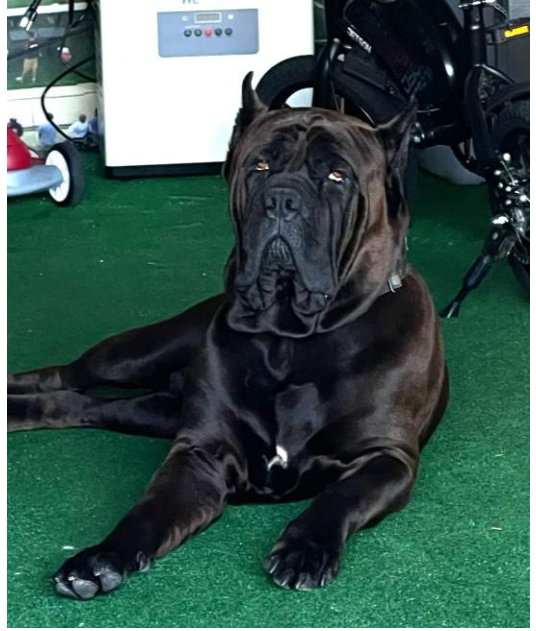
- *Meet Embo, a West Highland Terrier, all of six months old, who Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Marlon Fleming, Radiology Department, has had for four months. “We named him after the Star Wars bounty hunter.”*

· *Tifanie Riley, certified medical assistant, occupational health technician, has quite the fur family.*

Nodens is her 8 years old Labrador Retriever she has had for 8 years. “He has moved with me to every part of the country and is the best co-pilot (in the car),” she says. There is also Momo, 2 years old Yorkshire Terrier. “I’ve had him for 2 years. He is a small boy with a big attitude but is also the sweetest little guy.” Belle is her 9 years old Chihuahua-mix she’s had for 3 years. “She has no teeth, and her favorite activity is chewing squeaky tennis balls.” Toph is a 3 years old Mini Schnauzer she has had for 3 years. “She has a scream that can break the sound-barrier, and she screams when she is excited (all the time),” exclaimed Riley.

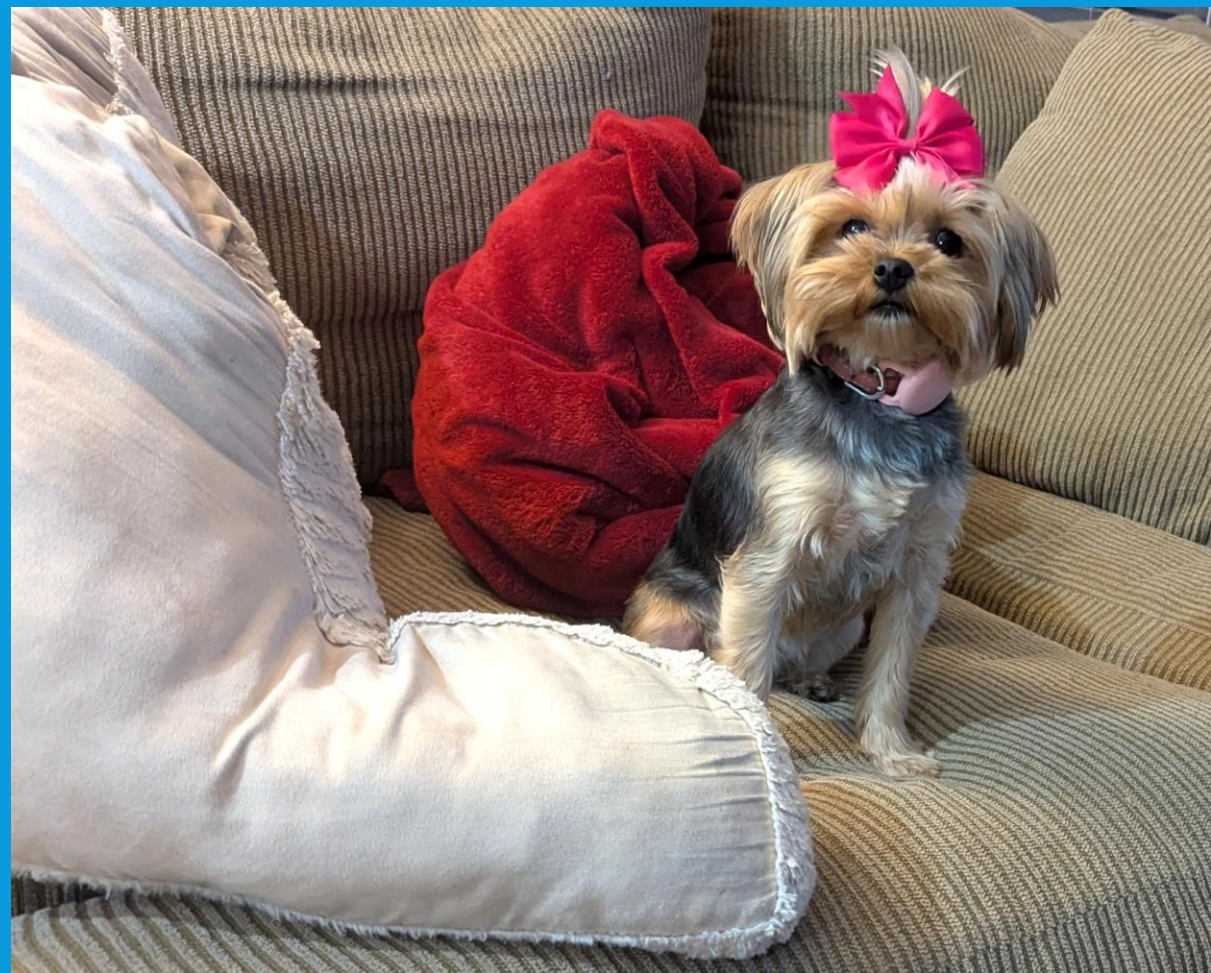
- *These are Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Marissa Stancil two girls: Stella, a 4-year old German Shepard and Roezi is a 11 years old Husky. “I have had sweet Roezi since before I joined the Navy in 2017. She has been all around the world with me. So far the PNW is her favorite! She loves hiking and can still be convinced to do a 5K [3.1 miles] with me if I promise we get snacks after. I got Stella right before PCSing to Italy in 2022. She loves the PNW as well. As for running… she’s the one convincing me that we never need to stop,” shared Stancil.*



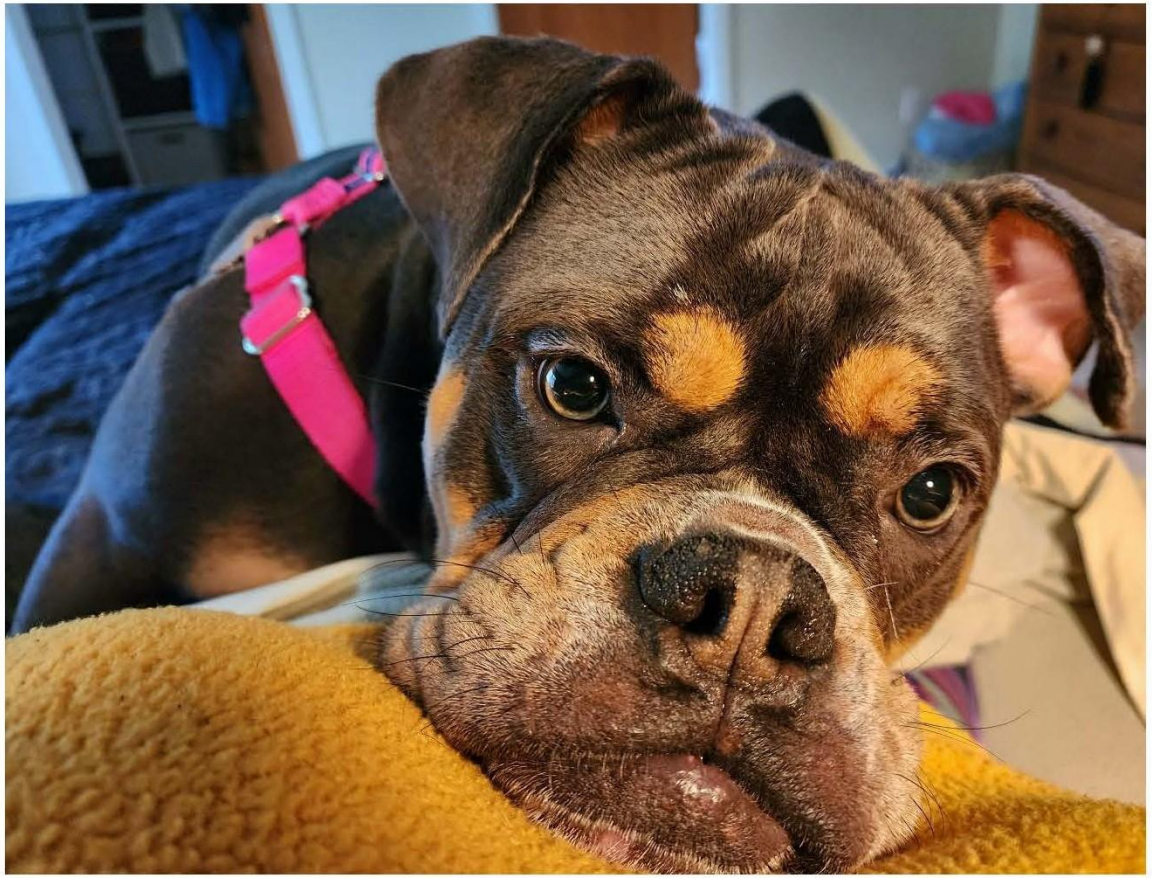


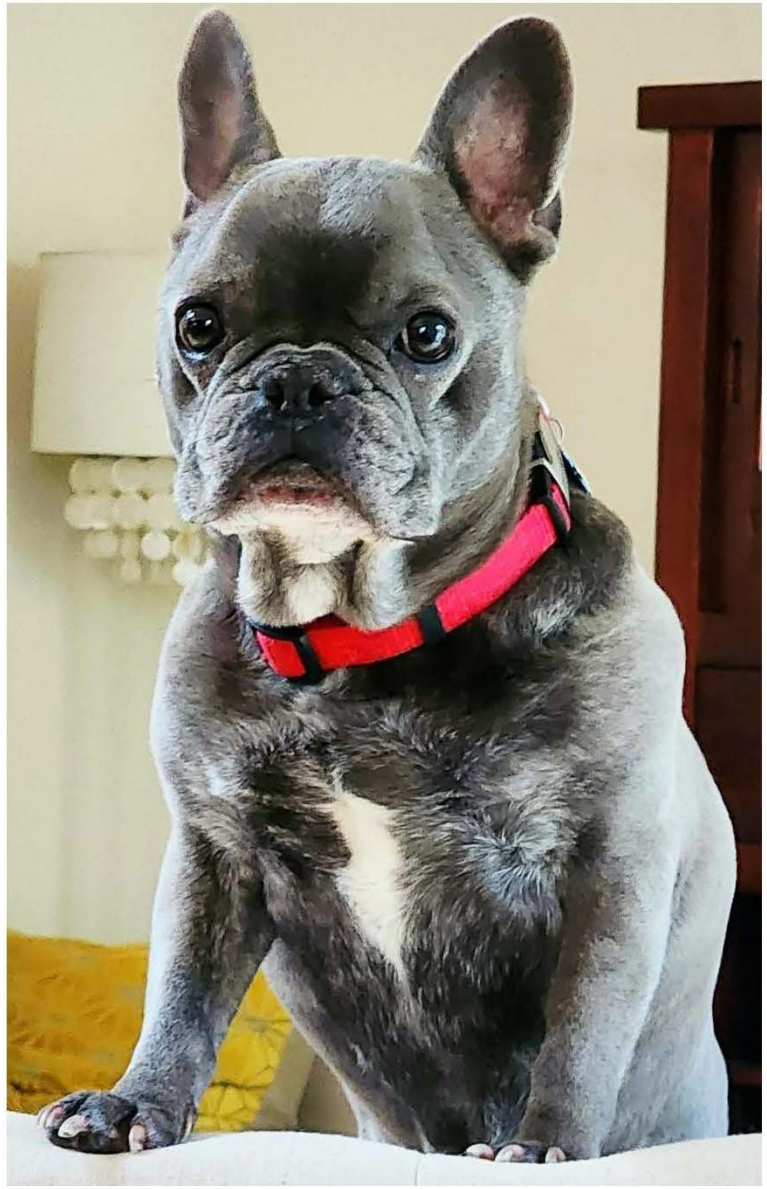
- ***Meet Nico 9-years old and Bleu (all of three months), the Cane Corso duo of Tabetha Sanders, PSNS detachment audio tech and family. “Don’t be intimidated- their hearts are pure cuddle,” she insists.***

Lynette Sandgren, inventory management specialist, shared their dog, Peanut, a 4-years old Yorkshire Terrier. “We got her from Skagit County Humane Society, September 2023. She is a character. She bounces around like a bunny. She very demanding and always hungry,” shared Sandgren.



- *Meet Sophie, five year old miniature Schnauzer, of Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Victoria Perez, surgical tech. “She is a spicy personality who also loves cuddles,” shared Perez.*





Hooman Parent: Cathi Udasco-Dunn

(Left Pic) Queenie is our 3-year-old Old English Bulldog. We've had her since she was a puppy. Her favorite activities are the zoomies, knocking you down while doing the zoomies and chasing the rabbits and squirrels.

(Right Pic) Taco is our 9-year-old French Bulldog grand pup. He spends time with us while his parents travel the world. He hates the vacuum cleaner and will tear it up every chance he gets! Other than that, he is pretty laid back and watches football on Sundays.

- *Meet Chase, a energetic 9-year old German Shorthair Pointer of May Neff and family. “We have had our moto dog since he was 8 weeks old, and he is still by far our biggest fan,” exclaimed Neff, NHB Customer Relations.*

Meet Anwyn, Welch Cardigan Corgi, of physician Raymond Hicks.